

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

Applicant thanks Examiner Au and SPE Horabik for the courtesy and professionalism extended to Applicant during the telephonic interview on Jan. 22, 2004.

Applicant also thanks Examiner for indicating that claims 6-7 would be allowable if written in independent form.

Objection to the Drawings

In response to the Examiner's objection, Applicant has corrected Fig. 1 to show the reference numeral of "Stereo Control" as "105." Approval is requested.

Rejections under Sec. 102

Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC Sec. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura (USPN 5,267,323). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and explains as follows.

1. As discussed during the telephonic interview, Kimura discloses a voice-operated remote control system for appliances, of which the operations are entirely dependent on its speech recognition circuit (15). As illustrated in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 of Kimura, the controller and transmitter (16, 17) depend on the speech recognition circuit (15), as well as its memory (23), to generate the command signal. To operate Kimura as a remote control for appliances, a user has to speak into the unit to have the user's speech recognized, based on data already registered and stored in the memory (23). In the event that the user forgets an exact voice command, the user can recall only the previously-registered voice commands from the storage unit. If the speech recognition circuit malfunctions, then Kimura's remote control system cannot operate, since no voice command can be registered, recognized or even recalled. The interdependence between the controller, the speech recognition circuit and the storage unit sets the Kimura system quite apart from the claimed invention.

The control circuitry of the claimed invention, as amended, does not have such dependence on the operation of the speech recognition circuit, the microphone, or the memory. The claimed invention does not perform any speech recognition, contrary to Kimura. As such, the remote control can still operate, even if the memory, or microphone, of the claimed invention malfunctions, and vice versa.

2. Additionally, in Kimura, to ensure accurate speech recognition, both during the registration mode and during the recognition mode, two microphones (M1 and M2) and noise remover (104) are used to remove the ambient noise.

No such "noise remover" is used in the present application. The claims, as amended, recite a microphone that receives signals both from the user and from the ambience. Such received signal is then fed to the processor and memory. As described in the Specification, the presently claimed URC can also be operated by recording the sound, or commercial messages, coming directly from the television set. This enables the users with speech impairment to still operate the present invention of recording a telephone number from the TV set.

3. Applicant has amended claims 1-4 and 8 to clarify that the claimed invention is distinguishable over Kimura. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn, and allowance granted.

Rejection under Sec. 103

Claims 5, 9 and 10 are rejected by the Examiner as being unpatentable over Kimura, and further in view of Cullimore, Besseman, and Yoshida, respectively. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claims 5, 9 and 10 are dependent claims of claims 3, 8 and 4, respectfully, which have been shown to be distinguishable over Kimura. Therefore, the rejections based on Kimura should be obviated accordingly.

New Claims

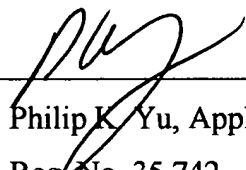
New claims 11-17 are added as dependent claims of the original claims, as amended. In view of the discussion above, the new claims present patentable and novel subject matter. Entry of the new claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments to the claims and discussion in connection therewith, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn and allowance granted. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter regarding the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

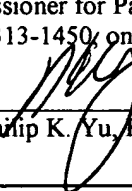
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelop addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date: Jan 22, 2004

By _____


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